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The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 18 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the peace process in Guatemala issued on 11 October 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Marjatta **Rasi**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the peace process in Guatemala issued on 11 October 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the "Encounter for Peace" convened by the "Comisión de Acompañamiento" as a further expression of the joint efforts by different sectors of Guatemalan society to promote the implementation of the Peace Agreements. The European Union congratulates all those involved with the achievements so far in the peace process.

The peace process started more than 10 years ago hand in hand with the process of democratization. The end of the armed conflict and the signing of the Peace Agreements were brought about by the efforts of various successive Governments in cooperation with social, economic and political organizations. Equally, the implementation of the Peace Agreements requires the joint efforts of all sectors of Guatemalan society for a sustained period to turn the agreed measures and objectives — including full respect for human rights, equal opportunities for the indigenous population, reform of the judicial system, fiscal reform, and reconciliation based on truth, among others — into lasting reality.

The European Union has fully committed itself to supporting the implementation of the Peace Agreements, whilst recognizing that the bulk of the efforts to eradicate the underlying causes of the armed confrontation have to be shouldered by the Guatemalans themselves. The European Union stands ready to continue its efforts to help bring about the profound changes needed to secure lasting peace on the assumption that Guatemala is fully prepared to go ahead with the peace process.

The European Union therefore calls upon all Guatemalans to clearly commit themselves to the continuation of the peace process and to full implementation of the Peace Agreements.